Drive-in for
COFFEE
8 AM - 11 AM & 5 PM - 10 PM
HOTEL
SIDDHARTA
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STAR OF MYSORE

OUR EVENING DAILY

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MYSURU Tuesday 2nd January 2024
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Ghastly accident kills four in Hunsur

KSRTC electric bus collides against four-wheeler; commuters cite overspeeding, road engineering defect

Hunsur, Jan. 2 (KK, RK, KS & BCT)- A horrific accident occurred between a four-wheeler and a KSRTC Electric Bus, resulting in the tragic death of four labourers and injuries to five individuals, including the bus driver. The incident occurred around 8.30 am at the turning in front of the RTO Office in Hunsur town.

The incident occurred when both the vehicles, coming in opposite directions, took a turn in front of the RTO Office in Hunsur town. The vehicles collided head-on. Eyewitnesses and the Police report indicate that the collision happened at a turn, with the four-wheeler on its designated side of the road.

The speeding bus, however, veered significantly to the opposite side of the road, leading to the collision.

The mangled remains of the four-wheeler in which the labourers were travelling. Picture right shows the KSRTC electric bus involved in the accident.

The Bengaluru Depot KSRTC Electric Bus (KA-51-AJ-0279) left Virajpet at about 7 am to Bengaluru while the four-wheeler (KA-12-P-1968), carrying nine labourers to a ginger farm in Periyapatna, left H.D. Kote at about 8.30 am. There were nine persons in the jeep.

The deceased have been identified as Manu (28), from Dammanakatte village, who was driving the four-wheeler, Lokesh (35), son of Mudaiah, Rajesh (38), son of Devaraj and Somesh (40), son of Ramaiah, all from Jiara village in H.D. Kote taluk. Manu's father, Gopal, a labour contractor and owner of the Mahindra four-wheeler, was also traveling in the vehicle and fortunately escaped unharmed.

Those injured are 29-year-old Ravi, son of Ravikumar and 45-year-old Sannaswamy, son of Doddaiah of Jiara village, 30-year-old Ningaraju, son of Thimmaiah of Hosamala village, Antharasanthe Hobli, 30-year-old Kariyappa, son of Puttaiah of Nuralakuppe village in H.D. Kote taluk and bus driver Kumaraswamy.

(See ACCIDENT on page 7)

MCC locks SBI branch over rental arrears

Bank staff left stranded outside; customers caught off guard by sudden closure

Mysuru, Jan. 2 (BLU&BS)- Customers of the State Bank of India (SBI) branch at Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) were taken by surprise this morning when they found the Bank closed without prior notice.

Subsequently, it was revealed that MCC personnel had locked the main door of the Bank on the ground floor due to non-clearance of rent arrears amounting to several lakhs of rupees. The issue came to light after a *Star of Mysore* reader informed about the Bank being shut, severely inconveniencing the customers.

Before becoming SBI, it was State Bank of Mysore (SBM) that was functioning in the corner of the ground floor of MCC Main Office on New Sayyaji Rao Road for the past several decades. After SBI took over SBM, the business continued as usual, with the salary and pension accounts of MCC employees being maintained at this branch, along with that of other customers.

According to an eyewitness, the Bank employees turned up for duty at 9.30 am, when an officer — who introduced himself as Assistant Revenue Officer (ARO) at MCC — locked the main door of the Bank, citing non-payment of rent dues, restraining the staff from resuming their duty.

SBI MCC Branch Manager Venkat Raju told *Star of Mysore*, "The rent was initially fixed at Rs. 5,200 per month and we consistently paid this amount until 2005 when MCC authorities issued a notice to either vacate or pay a revised rent of Rs. 25,000. While the proposal for paying the revised rent was in progress, we continued to pay as per the old rent."

With SBI Regional Office being the authority to decide on the rent, the Bank officers are waiting for the outcome. Meanwhile, the Branch Manager met MCC Commissioner Ashaad-Ur-Rahman Shariff to allow functioning of the Bank, at least till a decision is taken in this matter.

To Our Readers

First death anniversary tribute to Sri Siddeshwara Swamiji

It was on this day last year, 2nd January 2023, Sri Siddeshwara Swamiji of Jnanayogashrama, Vijayapura, left for his heavenly abode.

He was an eloquent public speaker on spiritual and moral subjects, who delivered discourses in Karnataka and other States both in Kannada and English. He was a regular visitor to our city and was closely associated with Mysuru's Suttur Mutt.

Today is the first death anniversary of Sri Siddeshwara Swamiji and here in a tribute, we publish an interview of Dr. C.P. Ramashesh, former Librarian, University of Mysore (UoM), who was closely associated with Sri Siddeshwara Swamiji, by Dr. C. Naganna, former Professor of Comparative Literature, UoM. This interview throws light on lesser known aspects of Sri Siddeshwara Swamiji's personality.—**Ed**

From left: ***Dr. C.P. Ramashesh, Sri Kumara Nijaguna Swamiji and Sri Siddeshwara Swamiji.***

[Turn to page 6]

STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.

Mysuru, Tuesday 2nd January 2024

Senior swimmer wins 5 medals in Nationals

Mysuru, Jan. 2- City swimming coach **V. Jagadeesha** has bagged three silver and two bronze medals in swimming contest at the Karnataka Open National Masters Games-2023 organised by Masters Games Association of Karnataka (affiliated to Pan India Masters Games Federation) at Hubballi and Dharwad recently.

He has secured silver medal each in 50m Breast Stroke (01:03:06), 200m Butterfly (04:59:47) and 200m Back Stroke (05:59:00) and bronze in 200m Individual Medley (04:51:03) and 100m Butterfly (02:04:56) in '50 years and above' age category.

Wins bronze in Karate

M.V. Jeevitha Ganga, a student of Vijaya Vittala Vidyashala, Saraswathipuram, has secured bronze medal in the State-level Sports and Games Competition for School Children organised by the Department of School Education, Karnataka. Jeevitha is flanked by Karate Coach Sidda Shetty (left) and Sensai Rajesh. She is the daughter of Vishwas and Preeti, residents of Dattagalli (Kanakadasanagar).

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

Simplicity promises happiness. When we are simple in our vision and attitude, we are able to remain happy, because now we are free from the complications of all that is happening. My mind is not caught up with the unnecessary, and I am able to remain easy in the most difficult situations. This attitude of mine also helps in creating positive vibrations and an environment of happiness where others too experience such happiness. Recognising your uniqueness and specialties is to respect yourself and others too. To have respect for oneself based on other people's opinion or situational achievements, is to have respect temporarily. True respect for the self is based on the recognition of the fact that every individual is special with its own set of unique capabilities. This understanding enables us to see our own uniqueness without being influenced by others or comparing ourselves with them.

When we recognise and appreciate our own uniqueness and respect ourselves, we are able to shed our ego or feelings of inferiority. Now we can recognise others' uniqueness and respect them for it, and in turn win their love and respect. This ensures harmony and happiness in our life and relations.

Instead of trying to oppose a person who displays negative qualities, we need to oppose the negativity itself. The one who knows the art of doing this, will never encourage the weakness in the other person but will provide all help to face and eradicate it fully. Since we are able to focus on the weaknesses we intend to remove, we free ourselves from negative feelings of dislike and hatred. There would be a genuine feeling of love, which in turn provides the right environment for the other person's growth.

—Rajyogini Dadi Ratanmohini in The Times of India

NEWS SPARKLERS

Woman sings for 126 hours and 52 minutes

Accra: A Ghanaian woman attempted to break a Guinness World Record by singing for 126 hours and 52 minutes.

Afua Asantewaa, an entrepreneur and former beauty queen, started singing through a repertoire of 125 songs on Christmas Eve and ended her attempt five days later.

Asantewaa was allowed a 5-minute break each hour or a 20-minute break every four hours under Guinness World Records rules.

She attempted to break the record of 105 hours, which was set by Indian musician Sunil Waghmare in 2012.

Evidence from Asantewaa's attempt is now being submitted to Guinness World Records.

Passenger plane mistakenly lands on frozen river

Moscow: While flying through Russia's far east, a Polar Airlines flight touched down unexpectedly on a frozen Kolyma river due to a pilot error early Thursday, the airline said. No injuries were reported.

According to a release from the Russian airline, flight YAP217 was on the route "Yakutsk-Zyryanka-Srednekoly-msk," when the Antonov-24 aircraft landed off the runway of Zyryanka airport in the Yakutia region. There were 30 passengers and four crew members were on board.

"The territorial department of the Federal Air Transport Agency has ordered an investigation into this fact," the Polar Airlines statement reads.

"According to preliminary information, the cause of the aviation incident was an error by the crew in piloting the aircraft," a spokesperson for the Eastern Siberian transport prosecutor said in a statement.

HEALTH CAPSULE

Persistent cough, shortness of breath, chest pain, or wheezing should not be ignored. These symptoms may indicate underlying respiratory conditions and warrant prompt medical attention.

By Dr. Lakshmi Narasimhan R - Consultant - Pulmonology
Manipal Hospital, Mysore

manipalhospitals
LIFE'S ON

** Health Capsule is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature*

Pt. Ronu Majumdar presents Flute Concert

Renowned maestro Pt. Ronu Majumdar presenting a flute concert at Navajyothi Auditorium in JSS Women's College, Saraswathipuram, last evening as part of violinist Rajya Sangeetha Vidwan S. Mahadevappa Memorial Programme organised by JSS Sangeetha Sabha. He is accompanied by Pt. Ravindra Yavagal on tabla.

WATER LEVEL

KRS DAM	KABINI DAM	HARANGI DAM
Maximum **124.80 feet**	Maximum **2,284.00 feet**	Maximum **2,859.00 feet**
Today's level **96.70 feet**	Today's level **2,273.20 feet**	Today's level **2,830.75 feet**
Last year's level **118.73 feet**	Last year's level **2,271.47 feet**	Last year's level **2,828.21 feet**
Yesterday's level **96.76 feet**	Yesterday's level **2,273.24 feet**	Yesterday's level **2,830.71 feet**
Today's Inflow **586 cusecs**	Today's Inflow **118 cusecs**	Today's Inflow **148 cusecs**
Today's Outflow **975 cusecs**	Today's Outflow **300 cusecs**	Today's Outflow **100 cusecs**

REALLY...?

- *There are as many as 200 species of owls around the world! Most of them are found in Asia while 19 are found in the US and Canada.*
- *All species of Owls do not hoot. They make other sounds like screeching, whistling, growling, rattling, even barking and hissing.*

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

Q: Why did the landlord put his money in the freezer?
A: He wanted cold hard cash!

TODAY'S CURRENCY RATE

1 US Dollar	= Rs. 83.33
1 UK Pound	= Rs. 106.24
1 UAE Dirham	= Rs. 22.69
1 Euro	= Rs. 91.92

VOICE OF THE READER

Fatal accidents at the dawn of New Year

Mindless young blood

Sir,

This refers to the front page news item titled ***"New Year mishap: Two BBA students killed in wee hours as bike collides with SUV"*** (*SOM* dated Jan. 1). Despite strong warnings by the Police, youngsters go overboard and end up in graves; mindlessly.

Generally speaking, partying and driving during 'wee hours' is ill-advised as fatigue tells upon drivers unless they have compelled themselves to uninterrupted sleep during day time — normally practised by professional drivers.

Year on year, precious lives are lost. Youngsters seldom realise that irresponsible acts ending in grievous injuries or deaths leave behind scars on the parents. Many times parents are unable to come out of such shocks.

Well, accidents on Bengaluru - Mysuru Highway have come down, by and large, thanks to the Government waking up and imposing a speed limit of 100 kms per hour (even now many clip at over 130).

Reading about a collision from behind killing two youths reads ridiculous. At 100 kmph, vehicles on the hind-side need to maintain a minimum of 40 feet for safety; technically termed "safe braking distance."

Similar phrase called "safe overtaking distance" is also vital for safety. We have many idiotic drivers who exhibit expertise in squeezing between lanes; mindless of distances between an overtaken vehicle and the one ahead; causing shockwaves in drivers. I have experienced this every time I am on this Expressway.

Now, the question is: "Why are traffic lights switched off at all?" especially during such times when drivers drive in madness. Why not the traffic lights be ON all through the night, always, so that drivers are obligated and CCTV footage is conclusive?

In many 'underdeveloped countries' traffic lights are always on. If one were to go by the assumption that blinking amber lights are enough to caution our drivers, they are foolhardy to say the least.

It is desirable to have conclusive tools to trap the guilty. In the USA, for instance, a vehicle hitting from behind is held guilty by law and penalised; no arguments, no court cases.

— V.N. Prasad,
retired Civil Engineer
Mysuru
2.1.2024

Malabar Gold & Diamonds presents 'Diamond Show' till Jan. 7

Mysuru, Jan. 2- Malabar Gold and Diamonds, one of the largest jewellery retailers in the world, has launched Diamond Show (Dec. 30, 2023 to Jan. 7, 2024) only at Mysuru showroom, showcasing a wide range of captivating diamond ornaments from its exclusive brand Mine Diamonds.

The 'Diamond Show,' an exclusive exhibition and sale of exquisite creations in gold, diamond and precious gem jewellery, was unveiled at Mysuru showroom by Malabar gold privilege customers Preena Peter, Amulya, Akshatha, Simran and Vastala on Dec. 30, 2023, in the presence of Assistant Store Head E. Sreenath and other Management members.

The intricately crafted ornaments are creations of master craftsmen. Each piece illustrates their expertise and ingenious skills, justifying the theme of the show 'Experience Wearable Art.'

In addition, the Festival which will run until Jan. 7 has unveiled a significantly large collection of modern, stylish, traditional as well as contemporary designer jewellery in tune with the evolving taste of jewellery lovers.

Apart from wowing the customers with a vast range of ornaments crafted in gold, white gold and platinum displayed under Mine Diamond, Malabar Gold and Diamonds is also offering up to 25% discount on diamond value during this Festival period.

Customers at the Diamond Show have a rare opportunity to buy the diamond jewellery at the most affordable price. To offer the highest levels and international standards of quality jewellery, Mine Diamond ornaments pass through a 28-point stringent internal quality check. Also these Diamonds are certified from international labs GIA and IGI.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds rolls out a comprehensive range of jewellery, catering to the tastes of all age groups, making it one of the preferred jewellery brands in the country. The company has recently launched 'One India One Gold Rate' scheme under which gold jewellery are sold at a uniform price across the country.

Office-bearers of Saptarshi Souharda Credit Co-operative Society

Mysuru, Jan. 2- The following were elected as the new Directors of the city's Saptarshi Souharda Credit Co-operative Society, Jayanagar in the elections held on Sunday.

N. Nagachandra (1,162 votes), S. Rajkumar (1,121), T.S. Sheshadri (1,091), M.S. Chandrashekar (1,041), M.S. Gururaj (1,039), H.V. Subbanna (1,027), A.S. Ranganathan (1,012), B.K. Sheshadri (1,001) and Basavanna (958) from General category seats; M.G. Krishnaveni (1,166) and S. Shyamala (1,092) from women reserved seats; M. Hanumantaiah (838) from SC reserved seat. Lakshmidevi was elected from ST reserved seat, G. Keethiprasad from Backward Classes-A and Muthuraj from Backward Classes B category seat.

MCC seizes banned plastic during drive

Mysuru, Jan. 2 (RK&DM)- Resuming the drive against use of banned plastics in the new year, the MCC authorities led by Commissioner Ashaad-Ur-Rahman Shariff, raided two shops located on Bidaram Krishnappa street in Santhepet this morning and seized banned plastic sheets (single use plastic of thickness less than 120 microns) weighing over one-and-half-tonne.

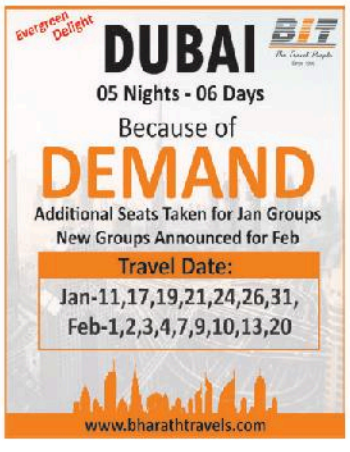
The owners of the two shops were issued notices and a case has been registered against them for violation of Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021, it is learnt.

MCC Zone-6 Assistant Commissioner Pratibha, MCC Environment engineers and Health Inspectors were present during the special drive.

Registration begins for accident relief to Newspaper Distributors

Mysuru, Jan. 2- The registration for Newspaper Distributors and Delivery Boys for getting accident relief upto Rs.2 lakh and medical treatment cost upto Rs.1 lakh has begun.

The Newspaper Distributors and delivery personnel can register in e-SHRAM portal. For more details, call Labour Department's 24x7 helpline: 155214, according to a press release from the Assistant Labour Commissioner.



NEWS BRIEFS

Ratha Yatra at ISKCON

Sri Krishna Balarama Ratha Yatra will be held at ISKCON Temple, Mysuru, on Jan. 6 — 4.30 pm to 5.30 pm: Inauguration at Palace Kote Anjaneyaswamy Temple; 5.30 pm to 8.30 pm: Ratha Yatra from Palace Kote Anjaneyaswamy Temple to ISKCON Temple; 8.30 pm: Arati with Sankirtan.

Ayurveda Camp

JSS Ayurveda Hospital, Lalithadripura Road, Alanahalli, Mysuru, will be conducting a Arogyayushya detox and health promotion camp (body purification) from Jan. 1 to 31 at its premises between 9.30 am and 4.30 pm. Patients suffering from obesity, diabetes, hypertension, arthritis, allergy, skin diseases, stress, anxiety, vision defect, headache, PCOD, male and female infertility, can avail the benefit of this camp through Panchakarma procedures, immunotherapy through rasayana and lifestyle modifications. For details, contact Mob: 98445-49152 or 97415-13392.

Free Mass Marriage at Suttur

As part of the week-long Suttur Jatra scheduled to take place at Suttur in Nanjangud taluk from Feb. 6 to 11, a free mass marriage has been organised on Feb. 7. All community brides and grooms may take part in the ceremony. A limited number of relatives of the couple will be provided free accommodation facility a day before the mass marriage. Interested, may register before Jan. 25. For details, contact JSS Mahavidyapeetha Jatra Mahotsava Office or call Ph: 0821-2548212/ 122 or Mob: 94486-74702 or 97413-42222.

Nada Dhyana Yajna-2

Pyramid World will be conducting Nada Dhyana Yajna-2 at Suttur Mutt, foot of Chamundi Hill, in city on Jan. 7 between 8.30 am and 5 pm. Meditation coach Ayyappa Pindi will be present. [Mob: 89048-19169]

Selected for Nationals

M.S. Yathish Kumar, a 9th std. student of JSS High School, Suttur, has won Kalotsava-2023 online tabla recital competition conducted by Education Department and has been selected for the National-level to be held at New Delhi this month. He is trained under Rajkumar.

Bhima Koregaon victory celebrated in city

Mysuru, Jan. 2 (MK&DM)- The Jai Bhima Koregaon Vijayotsava Samiti celebrated the 206th anniversary of Bhima Koregaon victory in the city on Monday.

On Jan. 1, 1818, a Dalit dominated British army defeated Peshwa army led by Peshwa Bajirao-II at Koregaon in Maharashtra. The battle attained a legendary status for Dalits, who consider the win as a victory of Mahars against the injustices perpetuated by the Peshwas.

Speaking on the occasion, former Mayor Purushotham urged the Government to take action against the culprits involved in the recent Nanjangud incident and to ensure that such incidents do not recur in the future.

Cautioning that the 19th century Bhima-Koregaon incident would recur if Nanjangud type incidents occur again, he strongly condemned the Nanjangud incident where some miscreants intentionally trampled on Mahishasura Rangoli drawing, which led to skirmishes between two groups.

Asserting that the Bhima Koregaon incident was indeed a battle of pride and self-respect for Mahars, Purushotham argued that the Mahars were indeed part of Naga community who ruled the country and that Manuvadis later distorted history clandestinely.

Bengaluru AKKA IAS Academy Director Dr. Shivakumar said that the New Year celebration also marks Bhima Koregaon victory.

Pointing out that a Dalit author by name Dr. Saraju Kaatakar wrote a book on Bhima Koregaon in 2001, he said that the Bhima Koregaon victory is celebrated across the country since then.

Noting that the Mahar warriors were sworn enemies of Peshwas, Dr. Shivakumar said that the British, making use of the situation, launched a war against Peshwas with more than 500 Mahars in their side and won the battle decisively. The then British queen, hearing about the valour of Mahars, honoured them by installing a tower *(Stambha)* at Koregaon, he added.

Earlier, Bodhi Datta Bantheji of Chamarajanagar's Nalanda Boudha University, inaugurated the event. Mysore Bar Association President M. Mahadevaswamy, Secretary S. Umesh, *Law Guide* Founder-Editor H.N. Venkatesh, leader AHINDA Chikkajavarappa, former Corporators Pallavi Begum and Prabhuswamy, Adikarnataka Mahasamsthe President Sunil Kumar, social workers Eshwar, R.C. Mahesh, S. Santosh and others were present.

Miscreants in the guise of RBI officers cheat farmer of Rs. 5.25 lakh

Mysuru, Jan. 2- Miscreants in the guise of RBI officers have cheated a farmer to the tune of Rs. 5.25 lakh by promising to give three times the money.

The farmer, who has been cheated, is 36-year-old B.V. Santosh Kumar, a resident of Bommanahalli village in Chintamani taluk of Chikkaballapur district.

Santosh received a call from Mob: 85198-84336 and the person on the other end introduced himself as Satish alias Rajanna, the driver of RBI officer Sagar. Satish, who used to call Santosh regularly, befriended him and told him that he would help him develop his (Santosh) poultry farm.

Satish then told Santosh that a large quantity of black money which were seized during raids by Income Tax Department officials was with RBI officer Sagar who was trying to convert it into white. He then told Santosh that he would give him three times the money he gives and to make him believe Satish had sent a 50 seconds video showing hoards of cash on Sept. 27.

When Santosh believed the video, Sagar and Satish summoned Santosh to Sri Vardhaman Palace Lodge near Majestic Bus Stand in Bengaluru on Oct. 2 and held talks with Santosh. They told Santosh that what they had was black money and not fake currencies. They then told Santosh that whatever quantity of money he gives them, they would deposit three times the quantity to his Bank account.

Believing them, Santosh, on Oct. 16, came to a lodge near Sangam Talkies in city where Sagar and Satish were staying and gave them Rs. 5.25 lakh cash. Sarag and Satish, who received the cash told Santosh that they would get his three times more money and left the room but did not return. When Santosh called them over the phone, they told him that due to Dasara rush, they would bring the money in a few minutes and later Satish's mobile phone was switched off.

Later, Satish called Santosh from a different number and told him that he would get the cash in a few minutes. Suspecting something fishy, Santosh told Satish that he did not want three times more cash and told him to return the money he had given. But from 8 pm on Oct. 29, his mobile phone was switched off.

On Nov. 4, Santosh lodged a complaint at Chintamani Rural Police Station. As the incident had taken place in Mysuru, Chintamani Rural Police have transferred the case to Lashkar Police Station. Lashkar Police, who have registered a case on Dec. 29, are investigating.

Chain-snatchers arrested

30 grams gold *mangalya* chain worth Rs. 1.20 lakh recovered, scooter seized

Mysuru, Jan. 2 (KS)- Hebbal Police have arrested two chain-snatchers, who had snatched a gold *mangalya* chain of a woman pillion rider on Dec. 17 and have recovered the gold chain besides seizing the scooter used for the crime.

Following the complaint from the woman, Hebbal Police, who had registered a case, began their investigation and acting on a tip off, the Police on Dec. 27, arrested the two accused in Udayagiri and recovered 30 gram gold *mangalya* chain worth Rs. 1,20,000. Cops also seized TVS Ntorq scooter used for the crime.

DCP (Crime and Traffic) S. Jahnavi and Vijayanagar Sub-Division ACP Gajendra Prasad guided Hebbal Inspector A. Mallesh, SIs Keerthi and Praveenkumar, CCB SI Kiran Arjun Hampiholi and staff Ravikumar, Mallikarjunappa, Harish, Mahesh Hosamani, Anand, Chandrashekar, Subhanallah Baladara, Sunil, Likith, Narasimharaju, Mahesh, Govindaraju and Kumar in the nabbing, recovery and seizing operation.

Obituary

Vidushi G.N. Roopa

Mysuru, Jan. 2- Vidushi G.N. Roopa (47), wife of Ramesh, who was a long time newspaper distributor in Kuvempunagar and a resident of Kuvempunagar, passed away yesterday afternoon in city.

She leaves behind son Rahul Bharadwaj, a lawyer in Bengaluru and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were held at the foot of Chamundi Hill this morning.

S. Manjunath

S. Manjunath (54), a resident of Vani Vilas Layout in Hebbal, passed away following brief illness yesterday afternoon in city.

He leaves behind his wife, two sons and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were held at Manchegowdanakoppal Burial Grounds yesterday evening.

Mysuru sculptor's Ram Lalla idol is frontrunner: BJP leaders' posts

No official photograph or video of idol till Jan. 17; 'Nagar yatra' in Ayodhya on Jan. 16

Mysuru, Jan. 2 (PM&BCT)- The idol of 'Ram Lalla' carved by Mysuru's renowned sculptor Arun Yogiraj — hailing from a lineage of five generations of renowned sculptors — will adorn the grand Ram Temple in Ayodhya, reports said. The temple is scheduled to open on Jan. 22, with the consecration ceremony commencing at 12.20 pm.

In a post on 'X' (formerly Twitter) yesterday, former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa said, *"The idol of Lord Rama sculpted by the sculptor Arun Yogiraj of Mysuru has been selected for installation in the magnificent Sri Rama Mandir of Ayodhya, which has doubled the pride and happiness of the entire Rama devotees of the state. Heartfelt congratulations to 'Shilpi @yogiraj_arun."*

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi said in a social media post that the selection of the idol for the 'Prana Pratishtapana' of Lord Rama in Ayodhya has been finalised. *"The idol of Lord Rama, carved by renowned sculptor of our country Yogiraj Arun, will be installed in Ayodhya."*

Yediyurappa's son and BJP State President B.Y. Vijayendra too hailed Yogiraj for making the State and Mysuru proud. "It is the pride of Mysuru, the pride of Karnataka that the idol of Ram Lalla carved by the unparalleled sculpture Arun Yogiraj will be enshrined in Ayodhya on Jan. 22," Vijayendra said.

Vijayendra added that Karnataka has a deep connection with Lord Rama as Kishkindha is located here. It is Kishkindha where Rama's ardent devotee Lord Hanuman was born.

Preferences in writing

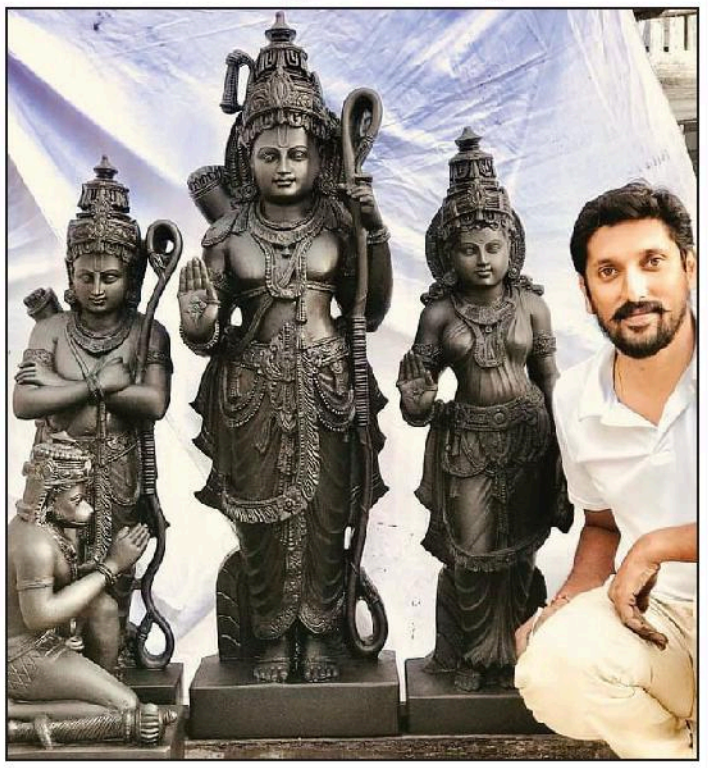
Reports said that on Dec. 29, all 11 members of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust met in Ayodhya to finalise the idol through voting. Ex-officio members were not part of the process. Preferences provided by the Trust members were submitted in writing to the President of the Trust, Mahant Nritya Gopal Das.

Later, Trust General Secretary Champat Rai said that the selection of the idol has been done. However, no official announcement will be made or a photograph or video of the idol will be released till Jan. 17. The idol will be taken out on 'nagar yatra' that starts on Jan. 16.

Three idols are on the shortlist: Two, carved in black stone, are by Arun Yogiraj and Ganesh Bhatt of Karnataka; and the third, in white, by Satyanarayan Pandey of Rajasthan. Reports said that Arun Yogiraj's idol was selected for the prestigious installation in the *sanctum sanctorum* while the other two idols will be placed in the temple at separate locations.

Yogiraj has carved the idol using a unique Krishna Shile (black schist) from Gujjegowdanapura village (Jayapura hobli) in H.D. Kote taluk of Mysuru District. As per reports, the tailor, who has been creating outfits for Ram Lalla since 1985, has begun crafting a unique yellow dress for the consecration ceremony.

No official communication yet; I learnt through messages: Arun



Sculptor Arun Yogiraj with the idols of Lord Ram, Sita, Lakshman and Hanuman that he carved in the past. The images of the idols of Ayodhya Ram Temple have not been released to the public yet.

Mysuru, Jan. 2 (PM&BCT)- Speaking with reporters, Arun Yogiraj revealed that he has not yet received official communication regarding the acceptance of the idol he sculpted. However, the messages posted by senior BJP leaders on 'X' led him to believe that his work had indeed been accepted.

Expressing his joy, Yogiraj mentioned that he was one of the three sculptors selected from the country to carve the idol of 'Ram Lalla.' Notably, he is a renowned sculptor responsible for crafting the idols of Adi Shankaracharya in Kedarnath and Subhash Chandra Bose near India Gate in Delhi.

Yogiraj acknowledged the challenge of sculpting an idol that represents a divine child, the incarnation of God. He emphasised the importance of conveying divinity through the child-like face and he began his work about 6 to 7 months ago.

Reflecting on the process, Yogiraj stated, "The idol should be of a child, who is divine too, because it is the statue of the incarnation of God. People who look at the statue should feel the divinity." He expressed his happiness but said that true satisfaction would come when people appreciate the idol.

Mentioning that they stayed in Ayodhya for 6 months to carve the stone, he said the first idol, completed in 3 months, was rejected. Subsequently, another one was crafted in 3 months, involving a team of 8 sculptors working with him.

Krishna Shile for idols were from Gujjegowdanapura at Jayapura

Mysuru, Jan. 2 (PM&BCT)- Reports indicate that the land in Gujjegowdanapura, where the Krishna Shile (black schist) was excavated, is owned by Ramdas, with Srinivas Nataraju overseeing a quarry operation on the site.

Approximately six months ago, Surendra Vishwakarma from Bengaluru visited the Gujjegowdanapura farm, inspecting stones intended for idol creation. Subsequently, he conveyed the findings to the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust.

Following this, a comprehensive evaluation was conducted by more than 17 engineers from various regions across the country, all of whom approved the quality of the azure-coloured Krishna Shile stones. Subsequently, five stones were transported from Gujjegowdanapura to Ayodhya in trucks.

These stones, distinguished by their unique azure hue, were chosen for crafting idols, including a 9 feet 8-inch stone for Lord Ram and a 7 feet 3-inch stone for Sita. Similar stones were dispatched for the creation of idols representing Lakshman, Bharatha and Shatrughna.

Siddaramaiah on damage control mode after Minister Sudhakar's jibe

Bengaluru, Jan. 2 (Agencies)- Chief Minister Siddaramaiah went on a damage control mode and said that his Government and his party are in full support of Sri Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

"We are not against building a Ram Mandir in Ayodhya," said Siddaramaiah adding "Till today I have not got an invitation. If an invitation comes, I will look into it."

Siddaramaiah's comments have come at the time when one of his Ministers alleged that the Central Government was using the Ram Mandir inauguration to gain votes in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Drawing a parallel between the Pulwama terror attack and the Ram Mandir inauguration in Ayodhya, Congress leader and Karnataka Planning and Statistics Minister, D. Sudhakar had

Siddaramaiah *Sudhakar*

said, "The BJP Government used the Pulwama terror attack to secure votes in the last Lok Sabha elections, and this time, they are holding Lord Ram's photo."

While alleging the BJP of using Ayodhya Ram Temple's inauguration for its electoral gain, Sudhakar called the ceremony a "stunt". Sudhakar remarked, "The inauguration of Ayodhya Ram Mandir is a stunt. People are not fools. We have been fooled twice. I am confident that we won't be fooled for the third time."

MATTERS That MATTER

By Dr. C. Naganna, former Professor, Comparative Literature and Translation Studies, University of Mysore

An enduring association with a Teacher-Saint

***When** Star of Mysore **Founder-Editor K.B.Ganapathy asked me to contribute articles to SOM some time back, I agreed and told him that I would write an article under the column** 'Matters That Matter' **on Sri Siddeshwara Swamiji of Jnanayogashrama, Vijayapura, by talking to his close associate Dr. C.P. Ramashesh, the former Librarian of University of Mysore (UoM) and a scholar, as he had long association with the late Swamiji for nearly three decades.*

During the conversation with Dr. Ramashesh, I put a series of questions on the lesser-known aspects of the great Teacher-Saint, who came to this world without any fanfare and left this world as quietly as he came. Here below is the interview:

Sri Siddeshwara Swamiji with Dr. C.P. Ramashesh.

Dr. C. Naganna (CN): Your association with Sri Siddeshwara Swamiji has been for many years. In fact, it's some three-decades-old. So, you are aware of how Swamiji was introduced to Mysuru region as he belongs to Vijayapura (Bijapur). Could you tell us how his Mysuru connection came about?

Dr. C.P. Ramashesh (CPR): There is a Ramakrishna Ashram in Kollegal; it's actually a private organisation following the philosophy of Sri Ramakrishna Paramahamsa. Siddeshwara Swamiji used to be invited by Kumara Nijagunaru of Chilakavadi, Chamarajanagar. A large number of devotees used to attend the discourses of Siddeshwara Swamiji and the Principal of the JSS College of Kollegal once requested the Swamiji to address the students. The Swamiji accepted the invitation and delivered his discourse. At the end of the discourse, the students literally mobbed the Swamiji as his voice was a veritable nectar and the content was simple and accessible.

CN: When did the Swamiji come to Mysuru?

CPR: Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Swamiji had already become the Pontiff of the Suttur Mutt (1985) and he invited Sri Siddeshwara Swamiji to Mysuru and deliver his discourse. The year was 1991 and *"Bhagavad Chintana"* was arranged for one whole month during the evenings (6.30 pm to 7.30 pm) at JSS College on Ramanuja Road, where the hospital is located now. That was a huge success, considering the increasing number of the spiritually-oriented listeners.

CN: When did you actually meet Siddeshwara Swamiji and how did he receive you?

CPR: The year was 1995. We have a spiritual organisation called "Nijaguna Satsanga Balaga" which is led by Sri Sadashivagurugalu. Under his leadership, some 25 people went and met Siddeshwara Swamiji at Nakshatra Farm near Hinkal. After we were introduced, the Swamiji singled me out and asked 'what are you doing?' I told him I am a Librarian in the University. He suddenly became keen and asked what are the Science Journals you get. He said get me some old numbers; let the students make use of the new ones. He was very much interested in all branches of Science.

CN: What about his interest in books?

CPR: He was a voracious reader of books. He liked fresh and elegant books. He kept away the soiled ones. He would caress them and praise the production and the quality of new books. I took care to place in his hands the books he indicated. But the interesting thing is that he would return them back quickly after reading them. He was acutely conscious that the library books must go back to the library as early as possible, because they ought to serve the needs of other readers.

CN: I have heard about spiritual congregations he held for different groups; were they exclusive to the designated groups or did others also attend them?

CPR: Yes, such congregations were there for the *sanyasins*, para-medical personnel, doctors, students and so on.

CN: What was Swamiji's interest in addressing the rural audience?

CPR: The Swamiji was very eager to address the rural audience. He explained to me once that he would be very satisfied in addressing the villagers, however small the audience was.

CN: Did he deliver his discourses in English?

CPR: He did. Especially, when he visited foreign countries like Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand, Canada and countries of North America and South America. His Kannada can be described as *thili jala* (ತಿಳಿ ಜಲ) and it was crystal clear; his English was equally lucid; he never believed in bamboozling his listeners with verbal bombast.

CN: What are the places where he commanded a large number of listeners and followers?

CPR: In places like Kolhapur (in Maharashtra), Belagavi, Vijayapura, Bagalkote, Jamakhandi, Dharwad and Kalaburagi (Gulbarga). 25,000 was not an unusual gathering. So, one can very well imagine the value of Siddeshwara Swamiji's discourses.

CN: Can you say something about the Swamiji's phenomenal memory?

CPR: His memory was indeed phenomenal ! He would, for instance, quote off-hand long passages from Rabindranath Tagore. He knew hundreds of *Vachanas* by heart. He would recall them at appropriate moments, that would illuminate his discourses. He was equally well-versed in the *Upanishads.*

CN: What was his understanding of the small little tools and objects we use in ourdaily life like ladder, sickle, chair, table, basket and so on.

CPR: We normally tend to think that saints and philosophers, being other-worldly, always are hitched to cosmic things and they do not pay attention to things you just mentioned. But the Swamiji never categorised things as *'utkrishta'* and *'nikrishta.'* For example, he listed about 140 household articles and said there is spirituality in all these tools.

CN: When did he stay the longest in Mysuru?

CPR: I remember two occasions: In 1999, he stayed for 110 days and in 2021, for 87 days. During 2021, he was busy finalising the English translation of his monumental Kannada work *Allama Prabhudevara Vachana Nirvachana.* The book is ready for launching now.

CN: Swamiji's humour was subdued; but he insisted that the humourless speech is suffocating and spiritless!

CPR: Yes, indeed. For instance, he would deliver a one-hour lecture on a common crow. He was equally enthusiastic to speak on a donkey or a miser. According to him, a miser enhanced the economy of a nation in his own way; a donkey's contribution in lessening the burden of humanity is incalculable, so on and so forth.

CN: It is said, the Swamiji loved dictionaries?

CPR: He normally kept some 20 dictionaries in his study. He needed his Monier Williams' *Sanskrit-English Dictionary,* Apte's *The Practical Sanskrit-English Dictionary, The Oxford English Dictionary* (edited by Hornby), besides, *Macmillan English Dictionary: For Advanced Learners* and *Webster's Dictionary* (2 volumes) and, of course, *Kannada-Kannada Dictionary* (7 volumes) published by Kannada Sahitya Parishat, *English-Kannada Dictionary* of Mysore University (4 volumes), plus *Igo Kannada* (4 volumes) by G. Venkatasubbaiah and Shivaram Karanth's *Sirigannada Padakosha.*

CN: Sri Swamiji left his mortal coil on the 2nd of January 2023. Did he deliver discourses till the end?

CPR: He addressed a gathering of some 400-500 people on 11th December 2022 and after that he didn't speak much. By 27th December he almost stopped his speech. He left this world on 2nd January 2023 at 6.30 pm. He was cremated according to his will and his *'chitabhasma'* was immersed in the sea.

He had made it very clear that no monument or memorial should be built in his name and people have honoured his wishes. We are reminded of Bendre's poem on the Buddha where the poet says: *"Buddha's grave is within the human heart."* Likewise, Siddeshwara Swamiji has found a place in the heart of his devotees. His life has been his message and undoubtedly a Teacher-Saint of a very high order.

Deep silence pervaded UoM International Students' Hostel even as my interview with Dr. Ramashesh came to an end.

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Ghastly accident kills four

(Continued from page 1)

While Kumaraswamy and Ningaraju have been shifted to K.R. Hospital in Mysuru, others with injuries on their face and head have been admitted to Hunsur Government Hospital.

The collision was so severe that one labourer's body was lodged inside the four-wheeler, while the bleeding bodies of three others were thrown onto the road. The four-wheeler was mangled and the electric bus suffered damage near driver's seat.

Lokesh *Manu* *Rajesh* *Somesh*

Hunsur Town Inspector Dharmendra, along with staff Yogesh, Anil Kumar and others, arrived at the scene, conducted necessary procedures, including mahazar, shifted the injured to Hunsur Hospital and bodies to the mortuary. A case was registered.

KSRTC officers, who visited the spot, handed over exgratia cheques of Rs. 25,000 each to four families of the deceased. Further compensation as per norms will be handed over as per the due legal process.

Bus passengers made to wait for two hours

Following the accident, passengers of KSRTC Electric Bus, primarily office-goers, endured a nearly two-hour wait for KSRTC officials to arrange an alternative bus.

The delay caused frustration among passengers, considering the biometric attendance system in most offices. With the need to register their thumb impressions on time, passengers faced the risk of losing a day's salary due to the prolonged wait.

Expressing their discontent, passengers were heard criticising KSRTC officials in providing a bus. Relief came at around 10.30 am when another KSRTC bus arrived and allowed them to continue their journey.

Another accident at same spot: Road engineering flaw suspected

When Mysuru Superintendent of Police (SP) Seema Latkar and ASP Dr. B.N. Nandini visited the accident site to assess the situation, local residents and commuters expressed concerns to the SP about KSRTC bus drivers overspeeding and a perceived flaw in road engineering at the location, emphasising the need for urgent rectification.

Dr. Nandini promptly contacted the PWD officers, urging them to address the issue by implementing measures such as widening and other rectification methods. Subsequently, PWD officers visited the site and assured corrective action.

Adding credence to the complaints about the road engineering fault, another accident occurred at the same spot around 10.30 am. This accident involved an Innova and an ISUZU goods vehicle. The Innova was travelling from Kodagu towards Mysuru, while the goods vehicle was headed from Mysuru to Gonikoppa. The vehicles collided, but there was no loss of life or major damage. The owners of both vehicles reached a compromise and left the scene without registering a case.

MBBS student among two killed on New Year eve

Mysuru, Jan. 2 (RK&BCT)- The New Year's Eve death toll in Mysuru and its vicinity has reached four. Alongside the tragic incident involving two 22-year-old BBA students, who lost their lives in a collision between their speeding bike and an SUV at 2.15 am on Hunsur Road, two additional fatalities occurred near Srirangapatna during the early hours on the Mysuru-Bengaluru Expressway. In this separate incident, an MBBS student and an engineering student met with a fatal end.

According to Srirangapatna Police, a group of six students, including 19-year-old Mahin Singh, an MBBS student and 20-year-old Arnav, were en route to Mysuru in a KIA 7-seater SUV after concluding their celebration in Bengaluru. Mahin, a native of Patna, Bihar, was pursuing MBBS at Sapthagiri Medical College in Bengaluru, while Arnav, also from Patna, was an engineering student at BEMS Engineering College, Bengaluru.

The accident occurred at 3.15 am when their speeding SUV collided with a Ford car entering the main carriageway of the Mysuru-Bengaluru Expressway from the service road at Gowripura near K. Shettihalli. Police reported that the KIA was travelling at a speed of 120 to 130 kmph, and due to the impact, the SUV flew over the road divider, crashing onto the other side of the road.

While Arnav died on the spot, Mahi Singh died at the K.R. Hospital in Mysuru. The other four passengers in the car sustained minor injuries and were treated at private hospitals in Mysuru. The passengers of the other car too were treated at hospitals.

A case has been registered by Srirangapatna Rural Police Station and a post-mortem was conducted at JSS Medical College Hospital last evening and the bodies have been handed over to family members. The bodies are being taken to Patna.

According to the relatives of the deceased, both Mahi Singh and Arnav came from respectable families. While both the parents of Mahi Singh are doctors, Arnav's father is a top bureaucrat in Bihar. Srirangapatna Inspector B.G. Kumar has booked the case and a probe is on.

Elected unopposed

M.B. Charmana *S. Jayaramu*

Hunsur, Jan. 2- Senior Advocate M.B. Charmana was elected unopposed as the President of Hunsur Club while senior theatre person S. Jayaramu was elected as Hon. Secretary in the recently held election of office-bearers of the Club.

Be ready to keep COVID-19 under check: DC

Nasal swab of a nursing student being collected for COVID test at the counter set up at K.R. Hospital premises in city this morning, as other students look on.

Mysuru, Jan. 2 (RK&BS)- Deputy Commissioner (DC) Dr. K.V. Rajendra has instructed the Officers of Health and Family Welfare Department to make all preparations to tackle the spread of new COVID-19 variant in the district.

Addressing the Health and Family Welfare Department officials at a meeting held at his Office yesterday, DC said "With the rise in COVID cases the tests should be conducted in compliance with the guidelines issued by the Government and if the person tests positive for the virus, the hospitals should be ready to admit them for treatment."

The beds, oxygen supplies, oxygen plants, drugs and ambulances should be in better condition and cleanliness and all required facilities to treat inpatients should be made at the District Hospital and Taluk General Hospitals.

By adhering to COVID safety norms, it is essential for the general public to prevent the spread of the virus. Those suffering from cold, cough, respiratory ailments, fever and headache should consult doctor, without getting panicked over their health condition, advised the DC.

Dr. Rajendra

Explaining about Covid scenario, District Health Surveillance Officer Dr. Mahadev Prasad said "Mysuru district has 84 active cases, with 25 fresh cases registered on Sunday (Dec. 31, 2023) alone. 20 COVID patients are under treatment at the hospital."

Additional Deputy Commissioner R. Lokanath, ZP Chief Executive Officer K.M. Gayathri, District Health Officer (DHO) Dr. P.C. Kumaraswamy and other Officers were present.

Discount sale of branded garments and footwears

Mysuru, Jan. 2- As the sale of branded ready-made garments are closed in Chennai due to floods, the expo-cum-sale of branded ready-made garments and footwears has been organised with a huge discount at Jayamma Govinde Gowda Kalyana Mantapa on Udayaravi Road in Kuvempunagar.

The sale will conclude tomorrow (Jan. 3).

A total of 20 companies with 25 branded garments are being sold at a discount of 80%. The sale features shirts, jeans, tops, kurtis, shoes, slippers, sarees, bedsheets, ladies and gents jackets, undergarments, purse, ladies tops and leggings.

Children and Youth prove their mettle in Classical Music

The younger generation, disciples of various classical music teachers, performed on the occasion of Children's and Youth Day celebrated recently under the auspices of city's Sri Thyagaraja Sangeetha Sabha Charitable Trust in association with Rotary Club of Mysore West, proving their mettle at the classical music, considered as hard nut to crack. Hundreds of young artistes made it a day by enthralling the audience with their skills in vocal music and trying their hands in playing flute, violin, veena and mridanga.

Vidu. Sriranjani Santhanagopalan presents an impressive concert

Vidu. Sriranjani

It was a wonderful and very impressive recital by Vidu. Sriranjani Santhanagopalan, accompanied by Vid. Kishore Ramesh on mridanga, Vid. Sunad Anur on kanjira and Vidu. Deepika Venkatraman on violin, at JSS College for Women, in Saraswathipuram as part of the 28th Music Conference organised by JSS Sangeetha Sabha in December.

Vidu. Sriranjani is one of the most sought-after musicians in the music arena today. She has an arresting voice capable of rendering every embellishment in high speed and slow glides. Her effortless singing with tremendous creativity, mellifluous voice and immense appeal are the hallmarks of this talented Karnatak vocalist.

The concert started with Bhairavi varnam and the evening came to a conclusion with rhythmic piece thillana in raga Ahir Bhairavi.

The second song was Deva Deva Kalayamithe, Ragam: Mayamalavagowlai composed by Maharaja Swathi Thirunal. The rendition of pallavi, anupallavi and charanam in this song was awesome. She attracted the audience by her Alapana, Neraval and Kalpanaswara in Raga Reethigowlai of 'janani ninnuvina...'

The mood of the audience looked evident to soak in more when she started singing the divine Akilandeswari in raga Dwijavanti. Bhaktha Jana Vatsale sung by her in the raga Brindavana Saranga melted the hearts of the rasikas.

She had designed the concert in such a way that all aspects are perfectly covered keeping in mind the rasikas' favourites.

The audience could not have enough of her and craved for more.

Kishore Ramesh on mridanga and Sunad Anur on kanjira excelled during tani aavarthanam. One must also place on record the melodious and excellent support provided by the violinist Deepika Venkatraman. The concert was a sheer aural pleasure for Karnatak music connoisseurs.

—Tarakad Seshadri Ramanathan

'Kaartika' edition of Champaka Rashtreeya Kalaa Utsava held

Mysuru, Jan. 2- The 'Kaartika' edition of 'Champaka Rashtreeya Kalaa Utsava' (monthly programme) was held on Dec. 2 at Champaka Sabhangana, Champaka Academy premises in Ramakrishnanagar, showcasing Bharatanatyam performances by accomplished artistes from Bengaluru and Mysuru.

The evening began with a Bharatanatyam feature 'Ramam Bhaje' by Vidushi Dr. Nagalakshmi Nagarajan, Founder of Champaka Academy, Mysuru. This feature showcased popular compositions on Lord Rama by great composers like Dayananda Saraswati, C. Rangayya, Annammacharya, Tyagaraja, Purandara Dasa including 'Brova bharama', 'Devadevam Bhaje' and many more.

The compositions were elaborated to show the greatness of Lord Rama through his noble life stories. Vidushi Chethana Nagaraj (vocal), Vidwan K.S. Ganesh (flute) and Vidwan Vikram Bharadwaj (mridanga) mesmerised the audience as part of the musical ensemble.

Guru Dr. Padmini Shreedhar, Artistic-Director of Nritya Gaana Academy for Performing Arts, Bengaluru, along with her disciples Vidushi Aparna Prakash and Vidushi Monica G. Shekhar presented 'Bharata Mela-Kolara Sampradaya,' a rare feature in which they presented a 'Churnike' in raaga Hamsadwani, after which a Ganesha stuti 'Thaya' and finally a 'Suladi' composition by Sri Purandara Dasa in raaga maalika and taala maalika, all of which were composed by Guru C. Radhakrishna and also improvised based on the research work done by Dr. Padmini.

Disciples of Vidushi Prathima Murthy, Director of Nritya Deeksha School of Classical Dance, Mysuru, preformed Bharatanatyam for compositions like 'Odi Barayya Vaikunta Pati Ninna', 'Ashtalakshmi Stotram' and concluded the programme with 'Bagilanu Teredu Seveyanu Kodu Hariye', a beautiful composition of Sri Kanakadasa.

Mahesh Jambardi, COO of Excelsoft Technologies, Mysuru and Suma Mahesh, Senior Volunteer at SVYM, were the chief guests on the occasion.

During his remarks, Mahesh Jambardi opined that dance is an art form that connects and teaches our cultural and religious heritage and not just about what we see on the stage.

The programme was also blessed with the presence of Prof. Pradhan Gurudatta and senior dance gurus Dr. Tulasi Ramachandra and Vidwan Prof. K. Ramamurthy Rao. Members of public attended and enjoyed the event.

Mysuru brims with record tourists

Palace - 1.84 lakh visitors, Zoo - 2.28 lakh visitors between Dec. 23 and 30

Chamundi Hill and Brindavan Gardens also see heavy footfall

Mysuru, Jan. 2 (BLU&BS)- Mysuru city which is a hub of tourists saw record number of visitors during the recently concluded Christmas vacation topping with New Year's eve celebrations on Dec. 31, 2023.

A total of 1.84 lakh tourists visited Mysore Palace, while Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens (Mysuru Zoo) saw 2.28 lakh visitors during the last week of December.

Even Brindavan Gardens at Krishna Raja Sagar (KRS) Dam in neighbouring Mandya district witnessed heavy tourist footfalls during the same period.

Unlike previous two years, when the scare over COVID-19 pandemic kept many restricted to their households, the year 2023 saw a record number of travellers having tourist attractions in and around Mysuru on their itinerary.

In the recent years, there has been a change in trend, with tourists planning beyond *Nada Habba* Dasara, during which the city usually brims with tourists for whole 11 days. It is evident with the number of visitors recorded at Palace and Zoo, with the tourist flow starting two days ahead of Christmas festival on Dec. 25.

MYSORE PALACE

According to statistics released by Mysore Palace Board, Dec. 23 saw 26,111 visitors, Dec. 24 - 33,854, Dec. 25 - 30,957, Dec. 26 - 23,903, Dec. 27 - 22,048, Dec. 28 - 24,394 and Dec. 29 - 22,740. The statistics of visitors on Dec. 30 and 31 are not available yet.

MYSURU ZOO

Mysuru Zoo has surpassed even Palace, with the increase in number of visitors during the same period: Dec. 23 - 25,860,

Dec. 24 - 40,761, Dec. 25 - 35,344, Dec. 26 - 14,476, Dec. 27 - 28,425, Dec. 28 - 29,906, Dec. 29 - 26,450 and Dec. 30 - 27,092 totalling 2,28,314 visitors, according to Zoo Executive Director.

BRINDAVAN GARDENS

The Brindavan Gardens at KRS also witnessed a large number of tourists from Dec. 23 to 30, with 23,714 adult visitors generating a revenue of Rs. 11,85,700 through entry fee, 33,068 children earning a revenue of Rs. 3,30,680. Even from the school children who are given a discount in entry ticket fee, a revenue of Rs. 1,56,140 has been generated through 31,228 such visitors.

Similarly, Chamundi Hill in Mysuru, another prominent hub of religious tourism with temple of Goddess Chamundeshwari, also saw a continuous flow of tourists during the recent vacations.

If taken a closer look into tourists itinerary, the visitors had made a 'Circuit Tour Plan', with Mysuru first in the list, followed by Bandipur, Mudumalai, Ooty and Kodaikanal. With Kerala witnessing a surge in cases of new COVID variant, the tourist spots in God's Own Country was not the pick of many, while a few of them showed courage by picking resorts in and around Wayanad for their stay.

HOTELS, LODGES FULL

Till Sunday, the New Year eve, it was common to see tourists struggling to get rooms at hotels and lodges in Mysuru, with the hotels witnessing a good occupancy. That apart, even the Government-owned Guest Houses in the city were also full. The restaurants made a brisk business with the tourists vying to find space to satiate their hunger pangs.

The small vendors, especially those wandering around tourist spots, also made a brisk business this time, bringing smile on the faces of stakeholders in tourism, who bid good-bye to 2023 on a happy note, anticipating good omen with the onset of New Year 2024.

Students concerned about academic issues in UoM

Mysuru, Jan. 2 (SPN&DM)- Even as several architecturally designed buildings, including the Centenary Clock Tower came up in Manasagangothri campus to mark the Centenary celebrations of the University of Mysore (UoM) a few years ago, students are on a spot of bother as according to them there has been little progress in the University on the academic front.

About eight years ago, the then UoM Vice-Chancellor Prof. K.S. Rangappa had taken pains to develop the Manasagangothri campus on the lines of IITs, by establishing a giant Clock Tower to mark the centenary celebration of the University, which was established by the erstwhile Mysore rulers.

But now, the students claim that there has been little progress on the academic front and about 10-12 departments out of the 62 departments of the University are on the verge of closure.

Though many buildings, including new hostels, came up during the centenary celebrations, the University has been found lacking in the appointment of Guest Lecturers and betterment of infrastructure in hostels.

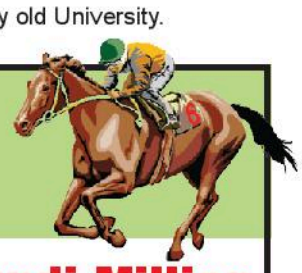
According to Karnataka State Research Scholars Association President Dr. Maridevaiah, nobody seems to be bothered about the declining academic activities in the University.

The students say that the Clock Tower in the campus has become non-functional for the past three months and that the decorative lights around it have been damaged by miscreants. Also, the entire Manasagangothri campus will be literally under darkness due to lack of street lights, which has caused scare among the hostelites.

The students are only hoping that the University authorities woke up to their plight and come forward to address the problems and issues bothering the over century old University.

MYSORE RACES 2024

(By Our Racing Correspondent)



KUSHAQ for Chamundi Million

Mysuru, Jan. 2- Following are the selections for the 6th day of Mysore Winter Races to be held here on Wednesday — Jan. 3, 2024:

1.	2.00 PM	THE NANDIDURGA PLATE	1400 mts. - rated 00 to 25 *1. DEEMED TO FIRE 2. SHOOTING VENUS*
2.	2.30 PM	THE TAJ MAHAL PLATE	1100 mts. - rated 20 to 45 *1. MARCH TO VICTORY 2. D. THIRTEEN TWELVE*
3.	3.00 PM	THE BIRD SANCTUARY PLATE - DIV. II	1400 mts. - rated 20 to 45 *1. VARDAAN 2. I CAN*
4.	3.30 PM	THE RAJENDRAVILAS PLATE	1600 mts. - rated 40 to 65 *1. JANEIRO 2. NATURAL TORNADO*
5.	4.00 PM	THE CHAMUNDI MILLION	2000 mts. - 4 Years (TERMS) *1. KUSHAQ 2. D. GOLD STAR*
6.	4.30 PM	THE SPARK OF LIFE PLATE	1200 mts. - rated 60 and above *1. BRAVE TROOPER 2. TOM CRUISER*
7.	5.00 PM	THE BIRD SANCTUARY PLATE - DIV. I	1400 mts. - rated 20 to 45 *1. SWAGHATHAM 2. CONFIDENT GAME*

DAY'S BEST: *KUSHAQ*

DOUBLE: *1. MARCH TO VICTORY 2. JANEIRO*

JACKPOT: *3, 4, 5, 6, 7* ***MINI JACKPOT:*** *4, 5, 6, 7*

I TREBLE: *2, 3, 4* ***II TREBLE:*** *5, 6, 7*

EXACTAS: *1 to 7* ***—Tipster PGC***

WORD OF THE DAY

Genial

Pronunciation: JEEN-yul.
Meaning: Someone described as genial is cheerful and pleasant; a thing described as genial suggests or expresses friendliness and cheer.
Origin: Warm, cheerful, and pleasant? That's genial in a bottle, baby. Or at least (if such a declaration rubs you the wrong way) that's the most common sense of genial. You may also be familiar with its closely related meaning of "favorable to growth or comfort" as in "what a girl wants most on vacation is to recline in the genial sunshine." Or perhaps you've heard genial used to describe someone or something displaying or marked by genius, as in "who among us doesn't appreciate genial insights embedded in a beautiful pop song"? After all, both genial and genius share an ancestor in the Latin word genius, meaning "a person's disposition or inclination." There are also older, now-obsolete senses of genial. When it first entered English from the Latin adjective genialis ("connected with marriage") it shared that word's matrimonial meaning. And at one time genial was also a synonym of native or inborn, describing things (such as musical talent) present or seemingly present in someone from birth.

THE ODD WORD

Galanty

Shadow play.

PHRASE OF THE DAY

Get a word in edgeways

Meaning: Join a conversation in which another is speaking continually and leaving little opportunity for others.
Origin: 'A word in edgeways', or as it is sometimes written 'a word in edgewise', is a 19th century expression that was coined in the UK. 'Edgeways/edgewise' just means 'proceeding edge first'. The allusion in the phrase is to edging sideways through a crowd, seeking small gaps in which to proceed through the throng. The phrase 'edging forward' exactly describes this inch-by-inch progress. It was first used in the 17th century, typically in nautical contexts and referring to slow advance by means of repeated small tacking movements, as here in Captain John Smith's The generall historie of Virginia, New-England and the Summer Isles 1624: After many tempests and foule weather, about the foureteenth of March we were in thirteene degrees and an halfe of Northerly latitude, where we descried a ship at hull; it being but a faire gale of wind, we edged towards her to see what she was.

QUOTE BOX

If life were predictable it would cease to be life and be without flavour.

—Eleanor Roosevelt

RIDDLE THIS

Solve the rebus:

Answer: Spread a little happiness.

CROSS WORD

ACROSS:

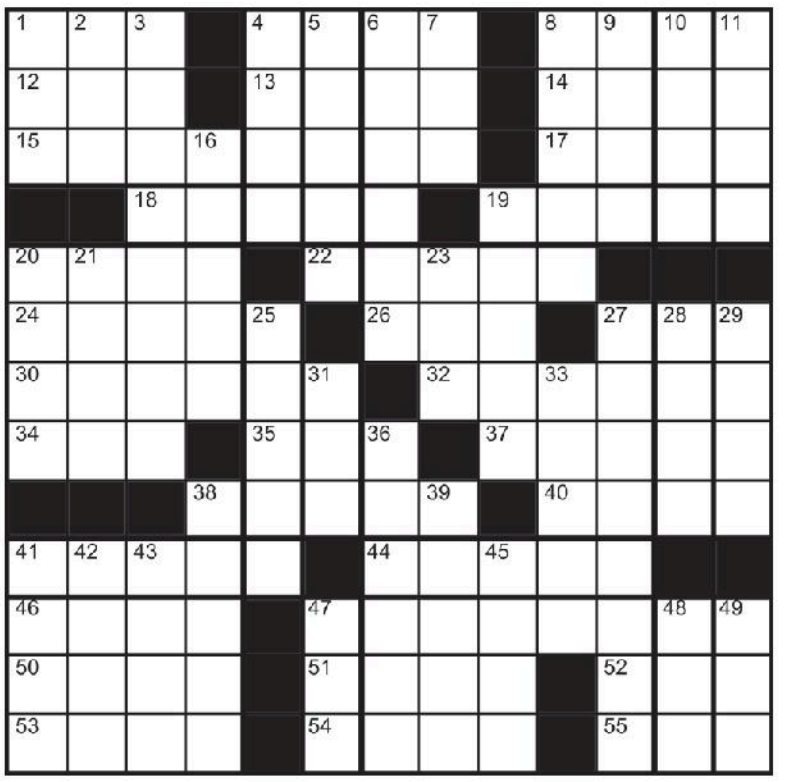
1 "L" in L.A. the famous city ?
4 Invitation words, briefly
8 ___ Laurel : Oliver Hardy's partner?
12 Of last month, in short, in correspondence
13 Inspires dread
14 Theatre award
15 Truthfulness
17 English composer
18 Skilful
19 Idiot box in the house? (2,3)
20 Ebrahim ___ was overthrown by Baber
22 Strange and weird
24 Forefinger
26 Move heavily
27 Youth
30 Attraction or charm
32 Cut down
34 Cereal grass
35 Get rid of
37 Former Indian paceman ___ Pratap Singh
38 Dog-like carnivore
40 Threw off
41 Tiny amounts?
44 Many (prefix)
46 Killed
47 A large prehistoric animal
50 Long, thin and drooping
51 Palindromic German
52 U-turn from SSW
53 Small amphibious creatures
54 Sac formed in the body, containing morbid matter?
55 River islet

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

E	S	H	A	■	L	T	D	■	W	E	A	K
P	L	U	S	■	A	B	I	D	A	N	C	E
H	I	G	H	A	N	D	M	I	G	H	T	Y
A	P	S	E	S	■	■	E	D	N	A	■	■
■	■	■	S	T	Y	■	■	G	E	N	R	E
A	S	I	■	R	E	C	H	E	R	C	H	E
L	I	N	■	O	T	T	E	R	■	E	E	L
A	N	T	O	N	I	O	N	I	■	S	A	S
S	H	E	B	A	■	■	S	D	U	■	■	■
■	■	R	O	U	T	■	■	O	R	R	I	S
O	R	N	I	T	H	O	L	O	G	I	S	T
B	L	E	S	S	I	N	G	■	E	L	L	A
I	G	E	T	■	N	O	E	■	D	E	E	R

DOWN

1 Brother of Kush
2 Spanish cry of encouragement or cheer
3 Have support on each side
4 Ethnic group
5 Steal; hit hard
6 Aston Martin driver Sebastian _____
7 "Gangnam Style" rapper
8 Ward off
9 Craggy hill-tops
10 Mrs. Shakespeare
11 Russian no
16 Bid ____ : say farewell?
19 Ferocious animal
20 Fibber like Ananias
21 Just the one
23 Robot drama by Karel Capek
25 Diagnostic aids for orthopaedists (1-4)
27 City in Punjab
28 A measure of land
29 Lifeless
31 English river sounding like the mystery letter?
33 Cleans house
36 Antagonism
38 birds of prey - just the opposite of doves?
39 Female relatives
41 Small island
42 Norwegian monarch
43 Wigwam
45 Booty
47 Physician informally
48 One as a prefix
49 Soap flax



SUDOKU

2			4		5	1		
		5		3				
							7	5
	4		1				6	
		1		2		5		
	7				4		9	
1	6							
				6		2		
		8	9		3			7

Answer to previous puzzle

9	5	1	7	8	6	3	4	2
3	2	4	1	9	5	6	7	8
8	6	7	2	3	4	1	5	9
1	4	3	5	6	8	9	2	7
7	8	5	9	1	2	4	3	6
2	9	6	3	4	7	5	8	1
4	3	9	8	7	1	2	6	5
5	1	8	6	2	3	7	9	4
6	7	2	4	5	9	8	1	3

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Concept is Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

CRYPTOQUIP

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

UDPDE NEIXN LUONKRUA NKLN TLU NKRUB CWE RNXDJC

RC OWI TLU'N XDD MKDED RN BDDZX RNX GELRU.

TODAY'S CLUE: A EQUALS G

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: Each failure to sell will increase your chances for success at your next attempt.

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- **Mahadeshwara Theatre** — **Mob: 99008-20093**
  Kaatera (K) - 4 Shows
- **Rajkamal Theatre** — **Ph: 2423554**
  Kaatera (K) - 4 Shows
- **Thibbadevi Theatre** — **Ph: 2452958**
  Salaar: Cease Fire - Part 1 (H) - 4 Shows
- **Sangam Theatre** — **Ph: 2520494**
  Salaar: Cease Fire - Part 1 (K) - 3 Shows; *Salaar (H)* - 8.15 pm
- **Padma Theatre** — **Ph: 2521923**
  Devil: The British Secret Agent (Te) - 4 Shows
- **Balaji Theatre** — **Ph: 2497199**
  Animal (H) - 4 Shows
- **Lido Theatre** — **Ph: 2420885**
  Kaiva (K) - 4 Shows
- **Prabha Theatre** — **Mob: 98454-14691**
  Bad Manners (K) - 4 Shows

DRC CINEMAS — Ph: 4240422, 4241800

Kaatera (K)	(S-1)	9.20 am, 7.05 pm, 10.30 pm
	(S-3)	7.00 pm
	(S-4)	9.20 am, 12.40 pm, 4 pm
Dunki (H)	(S-1)	12.40 pm
	(S-4)	7.25 pm, 10.30 pm
Salaar: Cease Fire - Part 1 (Te)	(S-1)	3.40 pm; (S-2) 7.10 pm
	(S-3)	10.25 pm
Salaar: Cease Fire - Part 1 (K)	(S-2)	3.50 pm
	(S-3)	9.30 am, 12.55 pm
Devil: The British Secret Agent (Te)	(S-2)	9.15 am, 10.30 pm
Animal (H)	(S-2)	12.05 pm
Aquaman & The Lost Kingdom (E-3D)	(S-3)	4.20 pm

MYSURU VISION CINEMAS — Ph: 0821 - 2973519

Kaatera (K)	:	9.40 am, 10 am, 1.15 pm
		1.55 pm, 4.45 pm, 5.30 pm
		6.15 pm, 9.30 pm, 9.45 pm
Salaar: Cease Fire - Part 1 (K)	:	10 am, 6 pm
Salaar: Cease Fire - Part 1 (Te)	:	1.30 pm, 9.45 pm
Dunki (H)	:	1.30 pm, 9.30 pm

PVR CINEMAS — 4K Dolby 7.1

Nexus Centre City Mall, 2nd Floor. Mob: 8951357139

Kaatera (K)	:	8.10 am, 10.45 am, 11.45 am
		2.20 pm, 3.10 pm, 5.55 pm
		6.45 pm, 9.30 pm, 10.20 pm
Dunki (H)	:	8.35 am, 12.25 pm, 3.30 pm
		6.50 pm, 10.00 pm
Salaar: Cease Fire - Part 1 (H)	:	8.50 am, 11.00 am, 3.20 pm
		6.55 pm, 10.30 pm
Salaar: Cease Fire - Part 1 (Te)	:	11.55 am, 6.10 pm
Salaar: Cease Fire - Part 1 (K)	:	2.35 pm, 9.45 pm
Devil: The British Secret Agent (Te)	:	9.20 am, 3.45 pm, 10.10 pm
Aquaman & the Lost Kingdom (E-3D)	:	12.25 pm
Neru (Ma)	:	6.50 pm

1st Floor, Garuda Mall. Mob: 9901373210

Kaatera (K)	:	7.55 am, 11 am, 11.30 am
		3.05 pm, 6.10 pm, 6.40 pm
		10:15 pm
Salaar: Cease Fire - Part 1 (Te)	:	8.10 am, 11.45 am
		3.20 pm, 10.30 pm
Salaar: Cease Fire - Part 1 (H)	:	2.35 pm, 9.45 pm
Salaar: Cease Fire - Part 1 (K)	:	6.55 pm
Dunki (H)	:	9.40 am, 4.05 pm, 10.30 pm
Devil: The British Secret Agent (Te)	:	1.00 pm, 7.25 pm

INOX LIVE the MOVIE

Mall of Mysore - Mob: 7829999465

Dunki (H)	(S-3)	12.45 am, 7.10 pm, 10.30 pm
Salar: Cease Fire - Part 1 (Te)	(S-1)	6.45 pm
Salar: Cease Fire - Part 1 (H)	(S-1)	11.35 am; (S-4) 10.10 pm
Salar: Cease Fire - Part 1 (K)	(S-1)	3.10 pm, 10.20 pm
	(S-4)	6.35 pm
Aquaman & Lost Kingdom (E-3D)	(S-4)	3.50 pm
Devil: The British Secret Agent (Te)	(S-3)	4.05 pm; (S-4) 9.05 am
Kaatera (K)	(S-2)	11.00 am, 2.40 pm
		6.20 pm, 10.00 pm
	(S-3)	9.05 am; (S-4) 12.10 pm

INOX Centro Mysore - Mob: 9606976757

Kaatera (K)	:	7.50 am, 11.30 am, 1.45 pm
		3.10 pm, 6.50 pm, 10.30 pm
Dunki (H)	:	9.30 am, 3.55 pm, 10.20 pm
Salaar: Cease Fire - Part 1 (K)	:	10.10 am, 5.25 pm
Salaar: Cease Fire - Part 1 (Te)	:	11.15 am, 2.50 pm, 6.25 pm
Salaar: Cease Fire - Part 1 (H)	:	10.00 pm
Devil: The British Secret Agent (Te)	:	12.50 pm, 7.15 pm
Neru (Ma)	:	9.00 pm

NOTE: Movie timings published here are subject to sudden change by the theatre managements. The films are also liable to be changed in multiplexes if there are no minimum audience of 15.

Mysuru's Sir MV team wins BCL Cricket

Mysuru's Sir MV team won the third edition of BCL Cricket Tournament conducted by BBB Trust at Coimbatore recently. A total of 20 teams including Sir MV and Mysuru Lancers teams from Mysuru had taken part in the Tournament. In the finals, Mysuru's Sir MV team led by Captain M.N. Deepak, beat Basavanagudi Gooligalu, to take home the winner's trophy. Nana Nani Homes Executive Director Kunar Uma distributed the trophies.

EVENTS TODAY (JAN. 2)

- **Neralu-Belaku Art Gallery:** 'Voyage Landscapes,' a landscape exhibition by Chethan Chukki, Coffee City, Water Tank Circle, Vijayanagar 2nd Stage, **up to 9.30 pm.** [Mob: 80955-69980]
- **Mysuru Jilla Chaya Sneha Souharda Sahakari Sangha Niyamita:** Souharda Sahakari Dinacharane, 2024 calendar and diary release programme, Institution of Engineers-India (IEI), JLB Road, **4 pm.**
- **Sri Lakshminarasimha Swamy Temple, Sri Yadugiri Yathiraja Mutt:** Dhanurmasa Puja, darshan timings, Temple premises, Sri Yadugiri Yathiraja Mutt, Kalidasa Road, V.V. Mohalla, **4.30 pm to 7.30 pm.**
- **Ramsons Kala Pratishtana and Indian Heritage Cities Network:** Art Show titled 'Trees, Water, Stardust' by Aadirika Kaddu and Desai Somesh, The Heritage House, Saraswathipuram, **4.30 pm to 8.30 pm.**
- **Hebbar Sri Vaishnava Sabha, Bengaluru - Hebbar Sri Vaishnava Upasabha, Mysuru:** Tirupavai Kalakshepa (discourse) by Vid. M.K. Shelvanarayana, Sri Rama Mandira, Krishnamurthypuram, **6.15 pm to 7.30 pm.**

EVENTS TOMORROW (JAN. 3)

- **Sri Ramakrishna Ashram:** 171st birthday of Holy Mother Sri Sarada Devi, Vedic chanting, **5.15 am;** Mangalarati & Bhajans, **5.30 am;** Special Puja, **7.30 am;** Lalitasahasranama Chanting, **8 am;** Bhajans, **9 am;** Scripture reading, **10.35 am;** Arati, **10.45 am;** Homa, **11 am;** Prasada distribution, **12 noon;** Bhajans by Sri Sharada Samvit Bhajana Mandali, **4.30 pm to 5.30 pm;** Discourse in Kannada on 'Sri Mate Sarada Devi,' **6 pm to 6.50 pm;** Arati and Special Bhajans, Ashram premises, Yadavagiri, **7 pm to 8 pm.**
- **Sri Lakshminarasimha Swamy Temple, Sri Yadugiri Yathiraja Mutt:** Dhanurmasa Puja, darshan timings, Temple premises, Sri Yadugiri Yathiraja Mutt, Kalidasa Road, V.V. Mohalla, **5.30 am to 10.30 am** and **4.30 pm to 7.30 pm.**
- **Neralu-Belaku Art Gallery:** 'Voyage Landscapes,' a landscape exhibition by Chethan Chukki, Coffee City, Water Tank Circle, Vijayanagar 2nd Stage, **9.30 am to 9.30 pm.** [Mob: 80955-69980]
- **MMK&SDM Girls PU College, Krishnamurthypuram:** College Day-2024 celebrations, SP Seema Latkar chief guest, DDPU M. Mariswamy special guest, MMK&SDM Mahila Mahavidyalaya Prof. Sainath Malligemadu guests of honour, MMK&SDM Girls PU College Principal Nayana Kumari presides, College premises, Krishnamurthypuram, **10 am.**
- **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Research and Extension Centre, Manasagangothri:** 74th Constitution Day - Special Lecture Series, Dr. R.G. Chidananda, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, D. Devaraja Urs FGC, Hunsur, delivers lecture on 'Indian Constitution and Right to Constitutional Remedies,' Prof. H. Somashekarappa, Principal, Maharaja's College, presides, Maharaja's College premises, **11 am.**
- **Ramsons Kala Pratishtana and Indian Heritage Cities Network:** Art Show titled 'Trees, Water, Stardust' by Aadirika Kaddu and Desai Somesh, The Heritage House, Saraswathipuram, **4.30 pm to 8.30 pm.**
- **Hebbar Sri Vaishnava Sabha, Bengaluru - Hebbar Sri Vaishnava Upasabha, Mysuru:** Tirupavai Kalakshepa (discourse) by Vid. M.K. Shelvanarayana, Sri Rama Mandira, Krishnamurthypuram, **6.15 pm to 7.30 pm.**

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